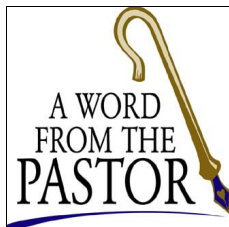




March/April 2024 “Radiant People, Brilliant Life, Bright Future”

11435 Grafton Rd,
PO Box 327
Carleton, MI 48117
734-654-2833



Confidence in Life

What makes you confident when driving to a place you've never been before? I googled to see how other people approach driving to unfamiliar places. Many people suggest checking at least two things: The first suggestion is to make sure to know the final destination, the ending point. Another crucial thing is to have a road map that provides detailed information about the route you're taking. Nowadays, we use

an electronic map that we call GPS. It is convenient because when the road is blocked, it finds new routes very easily.

What gives you the confidence to navigate your spiritual journey and safely reach your final destination? For me, it's about turning to the Bible for advice and direction. In Psalm 1, I find valuable guidance that serves as a spiritual map for Christians. It offers the direction and guidance to navigate the righteous paths. The psalmist emphasizes that a life rooted in trust in God and immersion in His Word is our straight and safe route that aligns with God's desire for us.

Example from the Classical Book

There is a Christian classic book by John Bunyan called *Pilgrim's Progress*. It gives us meaningful spiritual guidelines for Christians to adopt as a spiritual core value in our spiritual journey. In the story, a Christian fled from the City of Destruction and embarked on a journey to the Celestial City. Along the way, he encountered numerous trials and temptations. At the final stage of his journey, he confronted giant roaring lions blocking his path. Feeling utterly discouraged, he considered turning back. However, as he attempted to give up the way, he heard a voice reassuring him: “The lions are chained. Have faith and continue on the path you must take.”

The voice gave him clear direction: 'If you stay in the middle of the path, you will be safe, for the lions have been chained. They cannot harm you as long as you remain on the straight and narrow way toward your destination.' This story illustrates God's protection and providence, always available to Christians when they face troubles in their Christian life journey.

Example from Experience

The town where I was born and raised sat on a mountainside, offering breathtaking views especially on snowy winter mornings when a blanket of snow draped the landscape. However, living on a mountainside came with its challenges. One significant challenge was my daily trek to school, a three-mile journey through heavy snow with no snowplow in sight and no footsteps to follow. Despite the daunting conditions, I was determined to attend school because my motive was clear—I was a student, and students should go to school. Additionally, having a younger brother who was three years younger added to my sense of responsibility. I became a makeshift snowplow, forging a path for my brother by leading the way and leaving behind tracks for him to follow.

Conclusion

Stay strong in your faith and continue running the race of righteousness with the Lord. Your perseverance will be rewarded with a crown of righteousness, and your Christian journey will serve as a legacy for those seeking a living example to follow.

Pastor Cloud

Mission Statement

With God's guidance, we envision Carleton United Methodist Church as a family, alive and growing in a trusting environment; preparing everyone who enters to live and serve in the world.

Contact Us

www.carletonumc.com
carletonumc@gmail.com
734-654-2833

Sunday Worship:
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School:
10:30 a.m.

Monday Morning Bible Study: 10:30—11:30 a.m. (Historical Books of the Bible)

Wednesday:
Prayer Time 10-11 a.m.
Bible Study (New Testament) 6:30—7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class received into the membership of the church:
Sunday, March 17th

Palm Sunday, worship
March 24th: 9:30a.m.

Maundy Thursday
worship: March 28th,
7pm

Good Friday worship
March 29th, 1pm

Easter Sunday
worship March 31st
9:30 a.m.